

## PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hans Johann HORN

Appln. No.:

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: RING BINDER MECHANISM

Attorney Docket No.: 3827.083

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attn: Box PCT  
Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,  
please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS (CLEAN VERSION):

Please delete original Claims 1-45 and add the following new  
Claims 46-90:

46. Ring binder mechanism with a housing (10) having a C- or U-shaped cross-section with spring-elastic bendable flanks (28) for two carrier rails (20), which carrier rails on their facing longitudinal edges lie against each other forming a linkage axis (22) and with their away-facing longitudinal edges (24) engage in mounting grooves (26) in the housing flanks (28), and with at least two half-rings (16) longitudinally spaced apart and rigidly connected with each of the carrier rails (20) and which extend through openings (12) in a housing wall (13) and pairwise form a